

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/004932

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-11 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 21 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-20 _____ received by this Authority on 22.03.2005 with letter
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on of 21.03.2005
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/5-5/5 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Reference is made to document GB 2 078 491 (D1).

Document D1, which is considered the closest prior art, discloses (see figures 1 and 2) a hood (2), in particular for a garment (1), preferably for protective and/or military purposes, such as an NBC protection suit or such like, wherein the hood (2) has a peripheral elastic seam (5a) for forming a visual field opening (17), wherein the visual field opening (17) is designed to receive a breathing mask (page 1, right-hand column, lines 65-70) and the seam (5a) lies against the breathing mask when it is in use, from which the subject matter of claim 1 differs in that the on the side of the seam facing the visual field opening a plurality of peripheral sealing elements in the form of elastomeric fibres is disposed, which are permanently joined to the seam and ensure that the breathing mask contacts the seam in a sealing manner.

Consequently, the subject matter of claim 1 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The problem to be solved by the present invention is therefore understood to be that of ensuring that the

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Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
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transition between the hood and the breathing mask is sealed at least to a large extent.

The solution to this problem, as proposed in claim 1 of the present application, involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)), for the following reasons: to a person skilled in art, the subject matter of claim 1 is not obvious from the prior art, since none of the available documents discloses the sealing elements in the shape of elastomeric fibres.

The same applies to the garments according to the invention (claim 16) and the use according to the invention of the elastic seam having a plurality of peripheral sealing elements in the shape of elastomeric fibres (claim 18).

Claims 2-15, 17 and 19-20 are dependent on claims 1, 16 and 18, respectively, and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.